

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00  
SP-02 DHA-02 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 /037 W  
-----300104Z 025317 /63

R 291301Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3291  
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1870

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, ET, US  
SUBJ: INITIAL CALL ON NEW FOREIGN MINISTER

1. I WAS SUMMONED TO MOFA MORNING MARCH 29 TO MEET WITH NEW  
FONMIN, COL. DR. FELLEKE GEDLE-GHIORGIS. CALL WAS BILLED AS  
COURTESY CALL AND WAS ONE OF LONG SERIES ARRANGED BY MOFA TO  
ENABLE FELLEKE TO MEET ALL HEADS OF MISSION IN ADDIS (ADDIS  
ABABA 1615). CALLS HAVE BEEN ARRANGED IN ORDER OF PRECEDENCE.

2. I HAD BEEN WARNED BY SEVERAL AMBASSADORS THAT FELLEKE'S  
ROLE WAS MOSTLY TO LISTEN. THIS PROVED BE CORRECT, AND  
I THEREFORE DID MOST OF TALKING, MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. U.S. AND ETHIOPIA HAVE HAD LONG AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS  
AND I HOPED THAT WE COULD KEEP THEM THAT WAY. WE FULLY  
RECOGNIZED THAT ETHIOPIA WAS GOING THROUGH REVOLUTIONARY  
PROCESS, AND THAT OLD PATTERNS MAY BE ALTERED. NONETHE-  
LESS ETHIOPIA'S CHOICE OF ITS FORM OF GOVERNMENT IS NOT  
OUR CONCERN AND HAS NOT TROUBLED US. WE HAVE IN FACT,  
AS RECORD CLEARLY INDICATES, STRENUOUSLY ATTEMPTED SHOW  
THAT FRIENDSHIP DOES NOT DEPEND UPON A PARTICULAR FORM  
OF GOVERNMENT NOR UPON A PARTICULAR LEADER. INDEED WE  
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HAVE SYMPATHIZED WITH MANY OF THINGS EPMG HAS BEEN TRYING  
TO DO, PARTICULARLY IN FIELD OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND  
WELFARE, AND IN FACT HAD ADVOCATED SOME OF THEM BEFORE  
CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT.

B. WE VALUE HIGHLY OUR LONG-STANDING RELATIONSHIP.  
ONE IMPORTANT INDICATION OF THIS IS CONTINUED PRESENCE

OF BOTH USAID AND MAAG MISSIONS, BOTH OF WHICH ARE HERE FOR PURPOSE OF HELPING ETHIOPIA WITHIN CONTEXT OF WISHES OF EPMG.

C. WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED MANY TIMES PRIVATELY TO BELIEVE THAT MAINTENANCE OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS IS ALSO WISH OF EPMG. BUT, IN ALL CANDOR, WE HAVE NOT PERCEIVED AN EFFORT EQUIVALENT TO OUR OWN TO MAINTAIN THESE RELATIONS. WE HAVE, FOR EXAMPLE, SCRUPULOUSLY REFRAINED FROM ANY ACTION WHATSOEVER THAT MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS ENCOURAGEMENT FOR ANY OPPOSITION GROUP, BUT WE CANNOT AVOID NOTING THAT ETHIOPIAN MEDIA HAS NOT BEEN FRIENDLY, AND THAT REFERENCES TO CIA AS ONE OF ENEMIES OF REVOLUTION HAVE BEEN INCREASING BOTH IN MEDIA AND IN STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF PMAC DESPITE MY FREQUENT EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN TO VARIOUS MEMBERS OF EPMG. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO FOUNDATION TO ALLEGATION THAT CIA IS IN ANY WAY LINKED TO OPPOSITION ELEMENTS, AND EPMG HAS YET TO OFFER ME ANY EVIDENCE TO CONTRARY. CONTINUED ALLEGATIONS PARTICULARLY CONCERN ME BECAUSE OF THEIR POTENTIALITY FOR ENDANGERING SAFETY AND WELFARE OF AMCITS LIVING IN ETHIOPIA.

D. WE ALSO REGRET THAT WE HAVE NOT HAD OPPORTUNITY IN RECENT MONTHS DESPITE OUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF ETHIOPIA, TO DISCUSS OUR CONCERNS, INTERESTS AND PROBLEMS WITH ETHIOPIA'S TOP POLICYMAKERS, WHETHER THE CHAIRMAN OR HIS DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE. I HOPED THAT AN OPPORTUNITY MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING IN NEAR FUTURE.  
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E. FINALLY, THE U.S. IS WILLING TO DO ITS PART TO MAINTAIN OUR TRADITIONAL FRIENDLY RELATIONS, BUT IF WE ARE TO TRY AND JUSTIFY OUR WILLINGNESS TO CONGRESS AND AMERICAN PEOPLE, WE NEED CLEAR INDICATION IN DEED AS WELL AS WORDS THAT THIS IS ALSO WISH OF EPMG. WE HOPE EPMG DOES SO DESIRE AND THAT WE WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS THEIR THOUGHTS FRANKLY IN SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL RESPECT.

3. FELLEKE NODDED FREQUENTLY THROUGHOUT MY PRESENTATION, SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO KNOW THAT WE WANTED MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS, AND ADDED THAT ETHIOPIA WANTED GOOD RELATIONS WITH EVERYONE. HE WAS NEW AND JUST LEARNING HIS JOB. ETHIOPIA HAD NO TERRITORIAL DESIGNS ANYWHERE, BUT FEARED THAT CERTAIN NEIGHBORING STATES, PARTICULARLY ARABS, WANTED TO SEE ETHIOPIA BREAK UP. HE WOULD LOOK INTO POINTS I RAISED AND WANTED TO ASSURE ME THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP AND WOULD BE

AVAILABLE AT ANY TIME.

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, ET, US, (FELLEKE GEDLE GHIORGIS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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